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America's secrets: Trump's unprecedented disregard of norms

By AAMER MADHANI

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump isn't the first to face criticism for flouting rules and traditions around the safeguarding of sensitive government records, but national security experts say recent revelations point to an unprecedented disregard of post-presidency norms established after the Watergate era. Document dramas have cropped up from time to time over the years.

Democrat Lyndon B. Johnson's national security adviser held onto explosive records for years before turning them over to the Johnson presidential library. The records showed that the campaign of his successor, Richard Nixon, was secretly communicating in the final days of the 1968 presidential race with the South Vietnamese government in an effort to delay the opening of peace talks to end the Vietnam War.

A secretary in Ronald Reagan's administration, Fawn Hall, testified that she altered and helped shred



Former President Donald Trump speaks at a rally in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Saturday, Sept. 3, 2022.

Associated Press

documents related to the Iran-Contra affair to protect Oliver North, her boss at the White House National Security Council.

Barack Obama's CIA director, David Petraeus,

was forced to resign and pleaded guilty to a federal misdemeanor for sharing classified material with a biographer with whom he was having an affair. Hillary Clinton, while Obama's

secretary of state, faced FBI scrutiny that extended into her 2016 presidential campaign against Trump for her handling of highly classified material in a private email account.

The FBI director recommended no criminal charges but criticized Clinton for her "extremely careless" behavior.

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ENTERTAINMENT SCHEDULE				
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	SUNDAY
Angela Flores Violinist 6:30pm-8:30pm	Jean Paul Saxophonist 6:30pm-8:30pm	Eddie Kroon Singer 6:30pm-8:30pm	Marrybell Maduro Singer 6:30pm-8:30pm	Marrybell Maduro Singer 6:30pm-8:30pm
FRIDAY		SATURDAY		
Ricky Thomas Guitarist 7:00pm-9:00pm		Angela Flores Violinist 6:30pm-8:30pm		
KARAOKE  Happy Hour 9:00pm-11:00pm				

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America's secrets: Trump's unprecedented disregard of norms

Continued from Front

As more details emerge from last month's FBI search of Trump's Florida home, the Justice Department has painted a portrait of an indifference for the rules on a scale that some thought inconceivable after establishment of the Presidential Records Act in 1978.

"I cannot think of a historical precedent in which there was even the suspicion that a president or even a high-ranking officer in the administration, with the exception of the Nixon administration, purposely and consciously or even accidentally removing such a sizable volume of papers," said Richard Immerman, who served as assistant deputy director of

national intelligence from 2007 to 2009.

FBI agents who searched Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort on Aug. 8 found more than 100 documents with classification markings, including 18 marked top secret, 54 secret and 31 confidential, according to court filings. The FBI also identified 184 documents marked as classified in 15 boxes recovered by the National Archives in January, and it received additional classified documents during a June visit to Mar-a-Lago. An additional 10,000 other government records with no classification markings were also found.

That could violate the Presidential Records Act, which says that such records are government property and

must be preserved.

That law was enacted after Nixon resigned from office in the midst of the Watergate scandal and sought to destroy hundreds of hours of secretly recorded White House tapes. It established government ownership of presidential records starting with Ronald Reagan. The act specifies that immediately after a president leaves office, the National Archives and Records Administration takes legal and physical custody of the outgoing administration's records and begins to work with the incoming White House staff on appropriate records management.

According to the National Archives, records that have no "administrative, historical, informational, or evi-

dentiary value" can be disposed of before obtaining the archivist's written permission.

Documents have been recovered from Trump's bedroom, closet, bathroom and storage areas at his Florida resort, which doubles as his home. In June, when Justice Department officials met a Trump lawyer to retrieve records in response to a subpoena, the lawyer handed them documents in a "Redweld envelope, double-wrapped in tape."

Trump has claimed he declassified all the documents in his possession and had been working in earnest with department officials on returning documents when they conducted the Mar-a-Lago search. During the 2016 campaign, Trump asserted that Clinton's use of her private email server for sensitive State Department material was disqualifying for her candidacy; chants from his supporters to "lock her up" became a mainstay at his political rallies.

James Trusty, a lawyer for Trump in the records matter, said on Fox News that Trump's possession of the sensitive government material was equivalent to hanging on to an "overdue library book."

But Trump's former attorney general, Bill Barr, said in a separate Fox News interview that he was "skeptical" of Trump's claim that he declassified everything. "People say this (raid) was unprecedented -- well, it's also unprecedented for a president to take all this classified information and put them in a country club, OK," Barr said.

Trump's attitude about White House records is not so surprising to some who worked for him.

One of Trump's national security advisers, John Bolton, said briefers quickly learned that Trump often tried to hang onto sensitive documents, and they took steps to make sure documents didn't go missing. Classified information was tweeted, shared with reporters and adversaries — even found

in a White House complex bathroom.

That approach is out of step with how modern-day presidents have operated. Obama, while writing his White House memoir after leaving office, had paper records he used in his research delivered to him in locked bags from a secure National Archives storage facility and returned them in similar fashion.

Dwight Eisenhower, who left office years before the Presidential Records Act was passed, kept official records secure at Fort Ritchie, Maryland, even though there was no requirement for him to do so. Neil Eggleston, who served as White House counsel during the final years of the Obama administration, recalled that Fred Fielding, who held the same position in the George W. Bush administration, advised him as he started his new job to hammer home to staff the requirements set in the records act.

Similarly, Trump's White House counsel, Donald McGahn, sent a staff-wide memo in the first weeks of the administration underscoring "that presidential records are the property of the United States."

"It's not a hard concept that documents prepared during the course of our presidential administration are not your personal property or the president's personal properties," Eggleston said.

Presidents are not required to obtain security clearances to access intelligence or formally instructed on their responsibilities to safeguard secrets when they leave office, said Larry Pfeiffer, a former CIA officer and senior director of the White House Situation Room.

But guidelines issued by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, which oversees the intelligence agencies, require that any "sensitive compartmented information" — some of the highest-value intelligence the U.S. possesses — be viewed only in secure rooms known as "SCIFs." □

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U.S. ambassador to Russia leaves post as Ukraine war drags on

By MATTHEW LEE

AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. ambassador to Russia, John Sullivan, ended his tenure as America's top diplomat in Moscow on Sunday after nearly three years, spanning the Trump and Biden administrations, and will retire from a lengthy career in government service.

His departure, which comes in the midst of an increasingly serious crisis over Russia's war in Ukraine as well as disputes over detained Americans in Russia, had been expected this fall as he reached the usual length of time for U.S. ambassadors. But it was sped up due to family medical issue, according to people familiar with the matter who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the private nature of the situation.

"Ambassador Sullivan's departure is planned and part of a normal diplomatic rotation," the State Department said. "He has served a full tenure as U.S. ambassador to Russia, managing one of the most critical bilateral relationships in the world during unprecedented times."

The department added: "The U.S. will continue to condemn unequivocally the Kremlin's aggressive war against Ukraine and



U.S. Ambassador to Russia John Sullivan speaks to the media in Moscow, Russia, June 28, 2021.
Associated Press

remain steadfast in our commitment to supporting Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity."

Since Russia invaded Ukraine in February, the war has slowed to a grind with both sides trading combat strikes and small advances in the east and south. Both Russian and Ukraine have seen thousands of troops killed and injured, and Russia's bombardment of cities has killed countless innocent civilians.

Elizabeth Rood, the deputy chief of mission to Russia, will be the top U.S. diplomat in Moscow until a successor nominated by President

Joe Biden replaces Sullivan. A Boston native and big ice hockey fan who brought his skates and equipment when he left for Russia, Sullivan had returned to Moscow from a summer break just last week and had attended former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's memorial service on Saturday.

Sullivan took the helm of the Moscow embassy at a particularly difficult time in U.S.-Russia relations, which have only grown worse. He struggled to hold together a diplomatic mission dramatically reduced in staff

as Washington and Mos-

cow carried out an increasingly severe series of tit-for-tat expulsions.

Sullivan spoke frequently of his frustrations about deteriorating conditions for U.S. diplomats in Moscow, especially after Russian restrictions on American and local personnel forced major reductions in staffing.

His four-decade public service career included postings in Republican administrations as deputy secretary of state and senior positions in the departments of Justice, Defense and Commerce.

Sullivan was deputy secretary of state when he was

nominated by President Donald Trump and confirmed by the Senate with unusually strong bipartisan support to be ambassador to Russia in December 2019. Biden asked him to remain in the post when Biden took office last year. He had been the lead U.S. official in talks with Russia on counterterrorism and strategic security and testified in his Senate confirmation hearing that Russian efforts to undermine democracies must be combated.

Sullivan told senators that he would be "relentless" in confronting Russia over election interference, hostile moves against neighbors such as Georgia and Ukraine, human rights abuses and violations of arms control agreements.

His time as the State Department's No. 2 official was not without controversy.

Sullivan was the one who delivered the news to Marie Yovanovitch, the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine, that Trump had lost confidence in her and that she was being recalled early from the post.

Sullivan told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that he was given no other explanation for Yovanovitch's removal and told her that he did not believe she had done anything to warrant her recall. □



Former President Barack Obama speaks during a memorial service for former Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid at the Smith Center in Las Vegas, Jan. 8, 2022.

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Barack Obama is halfway to an EGOT.

The former president won

an Emmy Award on Saturday to go with his two Grammys.

Obama won the best nar-

Barack Obama wins Emmy for narrating national parks series

rator Emmy for his work on the Netflix documentary series, "Our Great National Parks."

The five-part show, which features national parks from around the globe, is produced by Barack and Michelle Obama's production company, "Higher Ground."

He was the biggest name in a category full of famous nominees for the award handed out at Saturday night's Creative Arts Emmys, including Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, David Attenborough and Lupita Nyong'o.

Barack Obama is the second president to have an Emmy.

Dwight D. Eisenhower was given a special Emmy Award in 1956.

Barack Obama previously won Grammy Awards for his audiobook reading of two of his memoirs, "The Audacity of Hope" and "Dreams From My Father." Michelle Obama won her own Grammy for reading her audiobook in 2020.

EGOT refers to a special category of entertainers who have won an Emmy, a Grammy, an Oscar and a Tony. To date, 17 people

have done it.

The late Chadwick Boseman also won an Emmy for his voice work on Saturday. The "Black Panther" actor won for outstanding character voiceover for the Disney+ and Marvel Studios animated show "What If...?"

On the show, Boseman voiced his "Black Panther" character T'Challa in an alternate universe where he becomes Star-Lord from "Guardians of the Galaxy." It was one of the last projects for Boseman, who died in 2020 of colon cancer at age 43. □

Sheriff: 2 dead in Northern California wildfire

By ADAM BEAM and KATHLEEN RONAYNE

Associated Press

WEED, Calif. (AP) — Two people have died in a blaze that ripped through a Northern California town, said Siskiyou County Sheriff Jeremiah LaRue.

Authorities confirmed Sunday the two deaths in the fire that burned buildings in the rural Northern California community of Weed, LaRue said.

He did not immediately provide names or other details including age or gender of the two people who died. About 1,000 people were still being kept from their homes Sunday as firefighters worked to contain the blaze that had sparked out of control at the start of the holiday weekend.

Power outages, smoky skies and uncertainty about what the day would bring left a feeling of emptiness around the town the morning after evacuation orders were lifted for thousands of other residents.

"It's eerily quiet," said Susan Tavalero, a Weed city councilor, who was driving to a meeting with fire officials. She was joined by



A cyclist rides along homes destroyed by the Mill Fire along U.S. 97 in Weed, Calif., Saturday, Sept. 3, 2022. A cyclist rides along homes destroyed by the Mill Fire along U.S. 97 in Weed, Calif., Saturday, Sept. 3, 2022.

Associated Press

Mayor Kim Greene, and the two hoped to get more details on how many homes had been lost. A total of 132 structures were destroyed or damaged, fire officials said Sunday, though it wasn't clear whether they were homes, businesses, or other buildings.

Crews kept the flames, known as the Mill Fire, from growing overnight. As of Sunday, the fire covered about 6.6 square miles (17 square kilometers) and was 25% contained, numbers

unchanged since Saturday night, according to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection. Three people were injured, according to Cal Fire, but no other details were available. Two people were brought to Mercy Medical Center Mount Shasta, Cal Fire Siskiyou Unit Chief Phil Anzo said Saturday. One was in stable condition and the other was transferred to UC Davis Medical Center, which has a burn unit. It's unclear if these injuries

were related to the deaths reported Sunday. Nearby, crews battled another blaze known as the Mountain Fire, which also sparked on Friday, though in a less populated area. More than 300 people were under evacuation orders. Weed, home to fewer than 3,000 people about 280 miles (451 kilometers) northeast of San Francisco, has long been seen by passersby as a whimsical spot to stop along Interstate 5. But the town, nestled in the

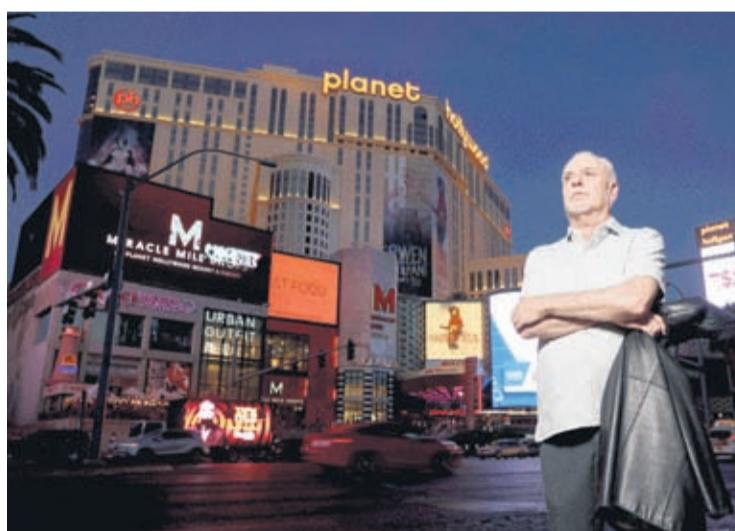
shadow of Mt. Shasta, is no stranger to wildfires.

Dominique Mathes, 37, said he's had some close calls with wildfires since he has lived in Weed. Though fire dangers are becoming more frequent, he's not interested in leaving.

"It's a beautiful place," he said. "Everybody has risks everywhere, like Florida's got hurricanes and floods, Louisiana has got tornadoes and all that stuff. So, it happens everywhere. Unfortunately here, it's fires."

The winds make Weed and the surrounding area a perilous place for wildfires, whipping small flames into a frenzy. Weed has seen three major fires since 2014, a period of extreme drought that has prompted the largest and most destructive fires in California history.

That drought persists as California heads into what traditionally is the worst of the fire season. Scientists say climate change has made the West warmer and drier over the last three decades and will continue to make weather more extreme and wildfires more frequent and destructive. □



Jeff German, host of "Mobbed Up," poses with Planet Hollywood, formerly the Aladdin, in the background on the Strip in Las Vegas, Wednesday, June 2, 2021.

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A Las Vegas investigative reporter was stabbed to death outside his home and police are looking for a suspect, authorities said.

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police officers found journalist Jeff German dead with stab wounds around 10:30

a.m. Saturday after authorities received a 911 call, the Las Vegas Review-Journal reported.

The Clark County Office of the Coroner/Medical Examiner said Sunday that German died from "multiple sharp force injuries" and the manner of his

Police: Las Vegas journalist dies in stabbing outside home

death was homicide. According to the Clark County Office of the Coroner/Medical Examiner, Jeffrey Michael German, 69, of Las Vegas was found deceased yesterday (Sept. 3). The cause of his death was multiple sharp force injuries, and the manner of his death was homicide. Our thoughts are with Jeff's family and friends during this difficult time.

It appears the 69-year-old German was in an altercation with another person that led to the stabbing, which is believed to be an isolated incident, police said.

"We believe the altercation took place outside of the home," Capt. Dori Koren, a Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

spokesman, said at a news conference. "We do have some leads. We are pursuing a suspect but the suspect is outstanding."

Glenn Cook, the Review-Journal's executive editor, said German had not communicated any concerns about his personal safety or any threats made against him to anyone in the newspaper's leadership.

"The Review-Journal family is devastated to lose Jeff," Cook said in a statement. "He was the gold standard of the news business. It's hard to imagine what Las Vegas would be like today without his many years of shining a bright light on dark places."

German joined the Review-Journal in 2010 after more than two decades at the

Las Vegas Sun, where he was a columnist and reporter who covered courts, politics, labor, government and organized crime.

He was known for his stories about government malfeasance and political scandals and coverage of the 2017 mass shooting at a Las Vegas music festival that killed 60 people and wounded more than 400 others.

According to the Review-Journal, German held a master's degree from Marquette University and was the author of the 2001 true-crime book "Murder in Sin City: The Death of a Las Vegas Casino Boss," the story of the death of Ted Binion, heir to the Horseshoe Club fortune. □

Energy problems in Ukraine and Europe take center stage

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Energy problems plagued Ukraine and Europe as much of the Russian-occupied region that's home to a largely crippled nuclear power plant was reported temporarily in blackout Sunday.

Only one of six reactors at the Zaporizhzhia facility was connected to the electricity grid, and Russia's main pipeline carrying natural gas to Germany remained shut down.

The fighting in Ukraine and related disputes over pipelines lie behind the electricity and natural gas shortfalls that have worsened as Russia's war in Ukraine, which began on Feb. 24, grinds on for a seventh month.

Both issues will take center stage this week. U.N. nuclear agency inspectors are scheduled to brief the Security Council on Tuesday about their inspection and safeguard visit to the Zaporizhzhia power plant. European Union energy ministers were slated to hold an emergency meeting Friday in Brussels to discuss the bloc's electricity market, which European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has said "is no longer operating."

Much of the Zaporizhzhia region, including the key



A Ukrainian soldier holds a watermelon and thumbs up as a rocket launch system fires in the front line in Donetsk region, eastern Ukraine, Saturday, Aug. 3, 2022.

Associated Press

city of Melitopol, lost power Sunday.

But it was later restored, said Vladimir Rogov, the head of the Russia-installed local administration in Enerhodar, the city where the nuclear power plant is located. To the southwest, power was also out in several parts of the port city of Kherson, according to Russia's Tass news agency.

While Rogov said no new shelling of the area around the six-reactor Zaporizhzhia plant was reported Sunday, the effects of earlier strikes lingered.

The International Atomic Energy Agency said Saturday that the plant was disconnected from its last

main external power line and one reactor was disconnected because of grid restrictions. Another reactor was still operating and producing electricity for cooling and other essential safety functions at the site, as well as externally for households, factories and others through a reserve power line, the IAEA said. Russian forces have held the Zaporizhzhia facility, Europe's largest nuclear plant, since early March, with its Ukrainian staff continuing to operate it. IAEA Director-General Rafael Grossi said he will brief the U.N. Security Council on Tuesday on a mission he led to the plant last week.

The 14-member delegation braved gunfire and artillery blasts to reach the plant last Thursday after months of negotiations to enable passage through the fighting's front lines.

Without blaming either warring side, Grossi said his big concerns are the plant's physical integrity, its power supply and the staff's condition.

Europe's energy picture remained clouded by the war in Ukraine.

Just hours before Russian energy company Gazprom was due to resume natural gas deliveries to Germany through a major pipeline after a three-day stoppage, it announced Friday that it couldn't do so until oil leaks in turbines are fixed. That is the latest development in a saga in which Gazprom has advanced technical problems as the reason for reducing gas flows through Nord Stream 1 — explanations that German officials have rejected as a cover for a political power play. Dismissing Gazprom's latest rationale for the shutdown, Germany's Siemens Energy — which manufactured turbines the pipeline uses — said turbine leaks can be fixed while gas continues to flow through the pipeline. □

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China, Japan ground ferries, flights as typhoon approaches

BEIJING (AP) — Cities in eastern China suspended ferry services and classes and flights were canceled in Japan on Sunday as Typhoon Hinnamnor, the strongest global storm this year, blew its way past Taiwan and the Koreas with fierce winds and heavy rains. Shanghai ground-based ferry services and deployed more than 50,000 police officers to aid with rescues and guide traffic away from danger areas. The eastern business hub of Wenzhou ordered all classes suspended on Monday. Hinnamnor is forecasted to move gradually northward into the East China Sea with maximum sustained winds of 175 kilometers (109 miles) per hour, according to the

Hong Kong Observatory. Evacuations and flight cancellations have been ordered in Japan's southern Okinawa Island. The typhoon is also expected to bring intense rainfall to the Korean Peninsula, bringing the possibility of flooding. China's National Meteorological Center issued a yellow typhoon warning at 10 a.m. Sunday, and warned of heavy rains in northeastern Zhejiang, Shanghai and self-governing Taiwan.

In Japan, the typhoon lashed Okinawa and nearby islands with heavy rain and fierce winds, threatening flooding and grounding more than 100 flights connecting the islands and parts of the main southern island of Kyushu. Footage



Waves crash on the eastern coast of Jeju Island, South Korea, as Typhoon Hinnamnor travels toward the Korean Peninsula on Sunday, Sept. 4, 2022.

Associated Press

on Japan's NHK national television showed trees violently shaken by the storm, with fierce rainfall hitting the pavement. A greenhouse for mangoes on Ishigaki Island was knocked down. On the main Okinawa island, two elderly people fell down and were slightly injured, according to media reports. □

igaki Island was knocked down. On the main Okinawa island, two elderly people fell down and were slightly injured, according to media reports. □

Israel announces new rules for foreigners in West Bank

By JOSEF FEDERMAN

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — An Israeli military body on Sunday released a list of rules and restriction for foreigners wanting to enter Palestinian areas of the West Bank, extending its control of daily life and movement in and out of the occupied territory.

COGAT, the Israeli body in charge of Palestinian civilian affairs, stepped back from a number of controversial restrictions that had appeared in a draft of the rules published earlier this year, such as a requirement that people who form romantic relationships with local Palestinians register with Israeli authorities.

But many of the changes in the 90-page document appeared to be largely cosmetic. The U.S. ambassador expressed concern over the rules, and critics said they merely entrenched Israel's 55-year control over the Palestinian population in the territory.

"The Israeli military is proposing new restrictions in order to isolate Palestinian society from the outside world and keep Palestinian families from living together," said Jessica Monstell, executive director of HaMoked, an Israeli human rights group that has challenged the rules in court.

"In response to criticism



Kenae Totah, 5, right, plays while his parents Morgan Cooper, 41, center and foreign spouse Saleh Totah, right, pose for a photo in front of their restaurant, at the West Bank city of Ramallah, Monday, May 2, 2022.

Associated Press

they have removed the most outrageous elements. Yet they are keeping the basic structure of this very invasive and harmful procedure in place," she added. The rules are set to go into effect on Oct. 20.

The wide-ranging policy imposes rules on foreigners who marry Palestinians or who come to the West Bank to work, volunteer, study or teach. The rules do not apply to people visiting Israel or the more than 130 Jewish settlements scattered across the West Bank. Israel captured the West Bank, along with east Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip,

in the 1967 Mideast war — territories Palestinians seek for an independent state. The initial draft included a requirement that a foreigner who forms a serious romantic relationship with a local Palestinian notify the Israeli military within 30 days of the "start of the relationship," defined as an engagement, wedding or moving in together. The 30-day notice was removed from Sunday's rules. But it nonetheless says that if a foreigner starts a relationship with a Palestinian, "the appointed COGAT official must be informed as part of their request to re-

new or extend the existing visa."

The new rules also dropped earlier limits on the number of foreign students and teachers allowed to study or work in the West Bank. The amount of time they can stay in the territory was also lengthened.

Yet COGAT continues to hold great discretion over who is allowed in. It must approve the academic credentials of a university lecturer invited by a Palestinian institution, and holds the right to screen potential students if there is "suspicion of misuse" of a visa. Tough restrictions on for-

ign spouses of Palestinians also remain in place. Spouses are only entitled to short-term visits and can be required to deposit up to 70,000 shekels (about \$20,000) to guarantee they will leave the territory.

The new rules offer some potential relief for foreign spouses, including a longer-term visa of 27 months that can be renewed and include multiple visits in and out of the territory. It also drops a previous "cooling off" period that required spouses to leave for lengthy periods between visas.

U.S. Ambassador Tom Nides expressed disappointment with the rules, and said he had "aggressively engaged" with Israel on the draft and would continue to do so ahead of the rules' formal implementation.

"I continue to have concerns with the published protocols, particularly regarding COGAT's role in determining whether individuals invited by Palestinian academic institutions are qualified to enter the West Bank, and the potential negative impact on family unity," he said. "I fully expect the Government of Israel to make necessary adjustments" during a two-year pilot program to ensure "fair and equal treatment of all U.S. citizens and other foreign nationals traveling to the West Bank." □



Final checker gives a thumb up to a AV-8B Harrier taking off from the flight deck of the Wasp-class amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge (LHD 3), operating in the Baltic Sea, Saturday, Sept. 3, 2022.

Associated Press

U.S. Navy assault ship takes part in Baltic Sea training

By MICHAL DYJUK and RAFAŁ NIEDZIELSKI
Associated Press

ABOARD USS KEARSARGE (AP) — U.S. Navy amphibious assault ship USS Kearsarge is taking part in international training in the Baltic Sea amid Russia's war in Ukraine and tensions in the region. The Kearsarge is the first ship of the Wasp class to take part in international training in the Baltic in at least two decades. Associated Press journalists visited the ship last week. "It's a first off for us in recent memory and it's been very

exciting," said Capt. Tom Foster, the commanding officer of the Kearsarge.

With some other U.S. Navy ships, the Kearsarge has been training for several months with the militaries of Sweden and Finland, which formally applied to join NATO after Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24. The training mission is to promote safety and security in the region.

"In the past several months, we have been operating in the Baltics and in the Mediterranean," said Capt. Aaron Kelley, com-

mander of the Kearsarge Amphibious Ready Group.

"We'll continue to operate in those areas. And always the goal there is promoting safety and security in those regions and in international waters," Kelley said.

The USS Kearsarge allows for training by such aircraft as AV-8B Harriers, UH-1 Y Venom and AH-1Z Viper helicopters as well as MV-22 Osprey planes.

The Baltic Sea countries are Sweden, Finland, Russia, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Germany and Denmark. □



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Pakistan's hope as lake fills: Flood villages to save a city

By ZARAR KHAN
Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistani engineers cut into an embankment for one of the country's largest lakes on Sunday to release rising waters in the hopes of saving a nearby city and town from flooding as officials predicted more monsoon rain was on the way for the country's already devastated south.

While officials hope the cut in the sides of Lake Manchar will protect about half a million people who live in the city of Sehwan and the town of Bhan Saeedabad, villages that are home to 150,000 people are in the path of the diverted waters. The hometown of Sindh province's chief minister was among the affected villages, whose residents were warned to evacuate ahead of time, according to the provincial information minister.

More than 1,300 people have died and millions have lost their homes in flooding caused by unusually heavy monsoon rains in Pakistan this year that many experts have blamed on climate change. In response to the unfolding disaster, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres last week called on the world to stop "sleep-walking" through the crisis. He plans to visit flood-hit areas on Sept. 9.

Several countries have flown in supplies, but the Pakistani government has pleaded for even more help, faced with the enormous task of feeding and housing those affected, as well as protecting them from waterborne diseases. While floods have touched much of the country, Sindh province has been the most affected.



Local residents cross a portion of road destroyed by floodwaters in Kalam Valley in northern Pakistan, Sunday, Sept. 4, 2022.

Associated Press

With meteorologists predicting more rain in the coming days, including around Sindh's Lake Manchar, and its level already rising, authorities ordered that water be released from it. Sindh's chief minister, Murad Ali Shah, made the call even though his own village could be flooded, said Sharjil Inam Memon, the provincial information minister. The government helped residents of the villages in the waters' path to evacuate ahead of time, said Memon.

The hope was that the water, once released, would flow into the nearby Indus River, but the lake's level continued to rise even after the cut was made, according to Fariduddin Mustafa, administrator for Jamshoro district, where the affected villages are located. Authorities have also warned residents of neighboring Dadu district that they might be at risk of more flooding in coming days.

While the release valve was created in one area, army engineers worked elsewhere to reinforce the banks of Lake Manchar, which is the largest natural freshwater lake in Pakistan and one of the largest in

Asia. In its latest report, Pakistan's National Disaster Management Authority put the death toll since mid-June — when monsoon rains started weeks earlier than is typical — at 1,314, as more fatalities were reported from flood-affected areas of Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Baluchistan provinces. The report said 458 children were among the dead.

Rescue operations continued Sunday with troops and volunteers using helicopters and boats to get people stranded out of flooded areas to relief camps, the authority said. Tens of thousands of people are already living in such camps, and thousands more have taken shelter on roadsides on higher ground.

Hira Ikram, a physician at a camp established by Britain's Islamic Mission in Sukkur charity, said many people had scabies, gastrointestinal infections and fevers. "With over 400 (children) dead they make up one third of overall death toll. Now they are at even greater risk of water borne diseases, UNICEF and other global agencies should help," he tweeted. □

Indigenous 'forest guardians' reported slain in Brazil



Indigenous leader Sonia Guajajara from the Guajajara ethnic group shows her hands painted in red symbolizing blood, during a protest against violence, illegal logging, mining and ranching, and to demand government protection for their reserves, one day before the celebration of "Amazon Day," in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Sunday, Sept. 4, 2022.

Associated Press

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Two members of the Brazilian Indigenous group known for its forest guardians who combat illegal deforestation have been killed according to the Indigenist Missionary Council, a nonprofit that monitors violence against native peoples. Forest guard Janildo Oliveira Guajajara was killed with multiple gunshots from behind, while another Guajajara man who was shot in the Saturday morning attack survived and is in a health unit, the nonprofit's division in Maranhao state said in a statement posted on Instagram. In a separate municipality of Maranhao, Jael Carlos Miranda Guajajara was run over by an unspecified vehicle the same morning, and members of his group suspect it was a targeted killing, the statement said.

The Guajajara live within the Arariboia Indigenous Territory in Maranhao and patrol their lands to expel invaders. That has often put them in the crosshairs: Five were slain in a five-month period in 2019-2020.

Neither the federal government's indigenous affairs agency nor the Federal Police responded to Associated Press emails requesting comment.

At a demonstration in Sao Paulo on Sunday, a small group of Indigenous people from several tribes were attending a previously scheduled protest against violence, illegal logging, mining and ranching.

Sônia Guajajara, a tribe member and executive coordinator of the Association of the Indigenous Peoples of Brazil, told reporters she needed more details before commenting on the reports.

"We are here to say: enough with this violence, enough with genocide against our people and our territory," she said.

The Missionary Council's annual report on violence against Indigenous people, released last month, reported that 176 Indigenous people were killed in 2021, down slightly from the prior year but well above the average from the preceding five years, of 123. □



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Paseo Herencia continues with its 'Gift of Education' program

ORANJESTAD - Paseo Herencia is known for always focusing on our culture and supporting young locals with their education and sports.

The 'Gift of Education' program is active since 2015 with the goal to help the students with their school tuition fees, which can help grant them the opportunities to reach their future goals.

This year, Paseo Herencia expanded its program to also help athletes who are combining their studies with sports. Due to the fact that it is very difficult here on Aruba to combine both, especially for young locals who wishes to excel in their education and sports.

Paseo Herencia is very proud to have 10 students who are part of the program this year. Paseo Herencia firmly believes that a good education is very important, and no one will be able to take it away from you because it is something that you worked hard for.

On Friday evening, an event took place at TGI Friday's to celebrate the start of a new academic year. Each student received a goodie bag with contributions from The Athlete's Foot, Delicia's Jewelry, Aruba Forever and TGI Friday's.

Paseo Herencia will continue to support our young local students and wishes every student a great start the new academic year. □



Beautification roundabout Plaza di Cultura

ORANJESTAD - On August 17, 2022, the Public Works Department (DOW) started the project to beautify the Plaza di Cultura roundabout.

The execution of this project is in phases.

Phase 1 includes the following activities:

Removal of the grass;
Raising of the existing wall around the fountain with two more blocks;
Replenish and fertilize the soil;
Preserve existing Watapana, Guyaba, and Fofoti hedge trees;
Moving the remaining plants and

replanting them in the green area of the DOW;

Curb maintenance and relocation of water meter box;

Laying a new foundation for the flagpole.

The first phase will take place in August and should be ready by December 2022.

Phase 2 includes the construction of a new irrigation system, including a pump, electrical installation, and the laying of new pavement clinkers. Phase 2 will start in 2023.

Phase 3 includes the following activities:

Plant some local plants but also popular plants that we often encounter in the garden;
Installation of permanent decorative lighting;
Completion of the irrigation system installation.;
Installing a new flagpole;
Pruning the existing Fofoti tree for a



better view of the embellishment.

Phase 3 is planned for 2023/2024. This project intends to plant colorful local plants around the fountain, while inside will contain protected plants. The DOW consulted the 'Ban Lanta y Planta' foundation for the plants' selection.

The fourth phase entails the construction of structures around the roundabout. This phase will start in 2024. The artworks should express cultural elements such as our language, music, customs/traditions, history, etc.

The first and second phases are more about preparing the roundabout for the embellishment later, so much of this embellishment won't be visible yet. However, it will be visible in phases 3 and 4. □



Another Treasure of Aruba's Beaches: Sea Glass!



NOORD - It is hard to imagine this happening today, but years ago people dumped all kinds of refuse straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass. Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery. The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back and forth. Tons of polished, broken glass pieces were created by the pounding surf. These smoothed, colored glass particles then settled along the sea shore in millions, and that is why you can find these beautiful and colorful pieces on the north shore beaches of Aruba.

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous Natural Bridge" and the huge red anchor close to "Grapefield" beach you will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass. The sea glass that was created is the product of a very long and interesting process. It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to make sea glass.



The name for any piece of glass that finds its way to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long enough is "Sea glass. The colorful pieces of glass are being used for decoration, handcrafts and jewelry! Once glass makes its way into the ocean, the glass is broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the water, where sand and other rocks act like sandpaper to smooth out its rough edges.

Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious gems.

For years, the water beat against the different kinds of trash being dumped. Glass, household appliances and even motor parts were discarded on the beach. The waves and weather conditions wore down the overwhelming amount of garbage in the water, creating millions of beautiful smooth rocks.

It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we were making that could have potentially ruined these beautiful beaches. But thanks to natural processes, the ocean transformed the trash into the sea glass.

Each colored gem on the beach has its own story.

The ruby red glass stones are typically from old car tail-lights.

Then, the sapphire rocks are the remnants of broken apothecary bottles. The most common and the easiest to find are the brown (Amstel & Polar beer), green (Heineken & Balashi beer) and clear glass which are the soft much loved "soft drink" bottles.

If you like to see the sea glass for yourself, and be in awe of the power of nature, rent a car or jeep and go explore our deserted beaches on the north side of the island. Make it a fun family day!

Even if we didn't mean to pollute the Beaches how we did, it is inspiring to see just how the earth can correct our mistakes.

Funny, how trash can change into treasures!

Everybody knows that you are not allowed to take local shells home, but the people working at the airport have no problem you taking sea glass home. A few of those pieces make great souvenirs. You can place them in a wine glass or large bottle for decoration and every time you look at it a smile will light up your face thinking back of your unforgettable Aruba vacation! □



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Americans splurge on beauty, despite pullbacks elsewhere

By HALELUYA HADERO and ANNE D'INNOCENZIO
AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — Like many Americans, Karla Maldonado has been cutting back her spending to spare her wallet from rising costs: She is eating out less and attending fewer social events to curb the impact of high gas prices.

But the 26-year-old social worker of Portland, Oregon, hasn't skimped on her eye makeup — the mascara, eyeliner and eyeshadow she typically wears to work just above her face mask. "That's something I can't go without," Maldonado said. And she doesn't seem to be alone. Many major retailers slashed their financial outlooks for the year after seeing shoppers pull back on many discretionary items in the latest quarter. But among the notable exceptions: beauty.

Target, Kohl's, Macy's and Nordstrom all highlighted strong sales of beauty items in their fiscal second-quarter earnings reports issued over the past few weeks. Walmart, the nation's largest retailer, said that it's seeing increased momentum in its beauty business, citing strong sales in cosmetics as well as skin and hair businesses. Meanwhile, Ulta Beauty, the largest beauty retailer in the country, said



This photo provided by Kohl's shows the interior of the Sephora section inside of the Kohl's department store in Ramsey, N.J.

Associated Press

overall sales spiked nearly 17% in its most recent quarter, compared to the same period last year.

Americans, once stuck behind Zoom screens in the thick of the pandemic, are out and about and wanting to look their best. Co-workers — some of whom are meeting each other for the first time — are trying to make an impression. Meanwhile, people are going out on dates and getting together for summer parties and barbeques after months of pandemic-induced leisurewear and

Netflix binges at home. But another possible explanation for why beauty is thriving when consumers are more apprehensive about their spending is a long-held theory known as the "lipstick index," which posits that lipstick sales rise during times of economic downturn.

The reasoning goes: When consumer sentiment declines, Americans seek escapism by looking for small ways to indulge themselves, such as by purchasing a new lipstick instead of pricier alternatives they

can no longer afford. For others, their version of lipstick might be cheap beer or a \$5 Caramel Macchiato from Starbucks, which reported record revenue in August for its fiscal third quarter.

The lipstick theory has held, though not always. Makeup sales spiked during the Great Depression and the recession in the early 2000s. But sales declined during the 2008 economic collapse, according to market research firm NPD Group. The same happened during the early days of the

pandemic as Americans stayed home — or behind masks -- and shifted their interests towards wellness and skincare as stimulus payments flooded bank accounts, helping balloon the savings of consumers who were already spending less on traveling or eating out due to pandemic lockdowns. Now, makeup is roaring back.

Americans have bought more eye, face and lip makeup — roughly 2%, 5% and 12% respectively — in a year-over-year analysis of sales across stores, according to the market research firm IRI.

At Macy's, CEO Jeff Gennette noted in an earnings call late last month that consumers have focused on deals and cut back on purchases amid high inflation. Still, they managed to buy beauty products as well as travel-related items like luggage, shoes and clothes to wear to the office, Gennette said.

Meanwhile, Kohl's reported that shoppers were making fewer trips, spending less per transaction and shifting toward value-oriented store brands. But at its Sephora beauty shops, launched last year as part of a partnership with the beauty chain, shoppers are spending freely on skincare, makeup and fragrance.□

Bed Bath & Beyond chief financial officer Gustavo Arnal dies

By The Associated Press undefined

UNION, N.J. (AP) — Gustavo Arnal, the chief financial officer of retail chain Bed Bath & Beyond, has died, the company confirmed on Sunday.

The company said Arnal died on Friday. According to the New York City Police Department, police found the 52-year-old unconscious with injuries showing he fell from a building in Manhattan. He was pronounced dead in the scene and the New York City Medical Exam-

iner's Office will determine the cause of death. Police said an investigation was ongoing.

Arnal joined the company in May 2020 after previous stints at Avon, Walgreens Boots Alliance and Procter & Gamble.

"Gustavo will be remembered by all he worked with for his leadership, talent and stewardship of our Company. I am proud to have been his colleague, and he will be truly missed by all of us at Bed Bath & Beyond and everyone who had the pleasure of

knowing him," said Harriet Edelman, independent chair of the company's board, in Sunday's statement.

Bed Bath & Beyond has faced turbulence recently: Its shares made a monstrous run from \$5.77 to \$23.08 over a little more than two weeks in August, in trading reminiscent of last year's meme-stock craze, when out-of-favor companies suddenly became darlings of smaller-pocketed investors. On Wednesday, the company said it would shutter



Bed-Bath-&-Beyond-Strategic-Update, Shoppers enter and exit a Bed Bath & Beyond in Schaumburg, Ill., Jan. 14, 2021.

Associated Press

stores and lay off workers in a bid to turn around its beleaguered business. The home goods retailer based in Union, New Jer-

sey, said it will close about 150 of its namesake stores and slash its workforce by 20%.□

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 40 Tex-Mex1 Track treats
competitions

6 Be bold 42 Twin of

Romulus

10 Bit of rock

history

11 Checkout amount

line count

13 Comic cheese

Radner features

14 Varnish ingredient

DOWN

15 Pub pint 1 Majestic

16 Cloth scrap

18 One — million

19 Union figure

22 Arthur of TV

23 Painter Magritte

24 Destined to happen

27 Prices

28 Yard sale label!

29 Unit of resistance

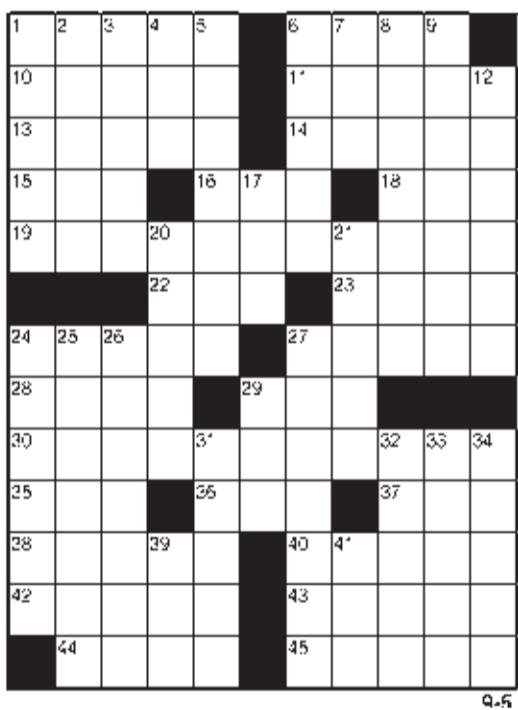
30 Pep rally figure

35 Play-ground game

36 Keats work

37 Australian bird

38 Nebraska city

**Saturday's answer**

9-5

AXYDLBAAXR
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

9-5**CRYPTOQUOTE**

L D , R I X O I Y M I W ! H Q G L W I

O D I J Q Q W N L H I O Q O D I R I L R Q T

O D L O L N L F I T R Y H R Q G K .

X I P P H I O Q T I H D Q W O Q T
Saturday's Cryptoquote: IN ORDER TO SEE BIRDS, IT IS NECESSARY TO BECOME A PART OF THE SILENCE. — ROBERT LYND

U.S. life expectancy plunged again in 2021, down nearly a year

By MIKE STOBBE

AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. life expectancy dropped for the second consecutive year in 2021, falling by nearly a year from 2020, according to a government report being released Wednesday.

In the first two years of the COVID-19 pandemic, the estimated American lifespan has shortened by nearly three years. The last comparable decrease happened in the early 1940s, during the height of World War II.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention officials blamed COVID-19 for about half the decline in 2021, a year when vaccinations became widely available but new coronavirus variants caused waves of hospitalizations and deaths. Other contributors to the decline are longstanding problems: drug overdoses, heart disease, suicide and chronic liver disease.

"It's a dismal situation. It was bad before and it's gotten worse," said Samuel Preston, a University of Pennsylvania demographer.

Life expectancy is an estimate of the average number of years a baby born in a given year might expect to live, given death rates at that time. It is "the most fundamental indicator of population health in this country," said Robert Hummer, a University of North Carolina researcher focused on population health patterns. U.S. life expectancy rose for decades, but progress stalled before the pandemic.

It was 78 years, 10 months in 2019. In 2020, it dropped to 77 years. Last year, it fell to about 76 years, 1 month. The last time it was that low was in 1996.

Declines during the pandemic were worse for some racial groups, and some gaps widened. For example, life expectancy for American Indian and Alaskan Native people saw a decline of more than 6 1/2 years since the pandemic



In this March 10, 2021 file photo, a couple walks through a park at sunset in Kansas City, Mo.

Associated Press

began, and is at 65 years. In the same span, life expectancy for Asian Americans dropped by about two years, and stands at 83 1/2. Experts say there are many possible reasons for such differences, including lack of access to quality health care, lower vaccination rates, and a greater share of the population in lower-paying jobs that required them to keep working when the pandemic was at its worst.

The new report is based on provisional data. Life expectancy estimates can change with the addition of more data and further analysis. For example, the CDC initially said life expectancy in 2020 declined by about 1 year 6 months. But after more death reports and analysis came in, it ended up being about 1 year 10 months.

But it's likely the declines in 2020 and 2021 will stand as the first two consecutive years of declining life expectancy in the U.S. since the early 1960s, CDC officials said.

Findings in the report:

—Life expectancy for women in the United States dropped about 10 months, from just under 80 years in 2020 to slightly more than 79 in 2021. Life expectancy for men dropped a full year, from about 74 years to 73.

—COVID-19 deaths were the main reason for the decline. The second largest contributor was deaths from accidental injuries — primarily from drug overdoses, which killed a

record-breaking 107,000 Americans last year.

—White people saw the second biggest drop among racial and ethnic groups, with life expectancy falling one year, to about 76 years, 5 months. Black Americans had the third largest decline, falling more than eight months, to 70 years, 10 months.

—Hispanic Americans had seen a huge drop in life expectancy in 2020 — four years. But in 2021, life expectancy for them dropped by about two months, to about 77 years, 7 months. Preston thinks good vaccination rates among Hispanics played a role.

The report also suggests gains against suicide are being undone.

U.S. suicides rose from the early 2000s until 2018. But they fell a little in 2019 and then more in 2020, the first year of the pandemic. Experts had wondered if that may have been related to a phenomenon seen in the early stages of wars and national disasters in which people band together and support each other.

The new report said suicide contributed to the decline in life expectancy in 2021, but it did not provide detail. According to provisional numbers from a public CDC database, the number of U.S. suicides increased last year by about 2,000, to 48,000. The U.S. suicide rate rose as well, from 13.5 per 100,000 to 14.1 — bringing it back up to about where it was in 2018. □

Spidey tops box office while Cinema Day draws millions



Tom Holland arrives at the premiere of "Spider-Man: No Way Home" at the Regency Village Theater on Monday, Dec. 13, 2021, in Los Angeles.

Associated Press

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr.
AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Spider-Man: No Way Home" has swung back on top of the box office during a holiday weekend where American theaters aimed to lure moviegoers with discounted \$3 tickets. The first "National Cinema Day" nationwide promotion became the highest-attended day of the year, drawing an estimated 8.1 million moviegoers on Saturday, according to The Cinema Foundation. The one-day event – offered on more than 30,000 screens and held in more than 3,000 theaters, including major chains AMC and Regal Cinemas – collected preliminary box office returns of \$24.3 million, according to data firm Comscore.

National Cinema Day was intended to flood theaters with moviegoers during a Labor Day weekend, which is traditionally one of the slowest weekends in the industry. The promotion looked to prompt people to return in the fall, inspired by a sizzle reel of the upcoming films from major studios including Disney, Lionsgate, Sony and A24. "This event outstripped our biggest expectations," said Jackie Brenneman, president of the Cinema Foundation, a nonprofit arm of the National Association of Theater Owners, in a statement. "The idea of the day was to thank moviegoers for an amazing summer, and now we have to thank them for an amazing day." Some other countries have experimented with a similar day of cheap movie tick-

ets, but Saturday's promotion was the first of its kind on such a large scale in the U.S. Organizers of the National Cinema Day said the event could become an annual fixture.

"This proves that people love going to the theaters," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for Comscore. "Pricing is always a consideration."

The top three performing movie titles for the day in-

cluded Tom Cruise's "Top Gun: Maverick," The Rock and Kevin Hart's "DC League of Super Pets" and Brad Pitt's "Bullet Train." Another top draw was "Spider-Man: No Way Home," which recaptured the No. 1 box office spot for the weekend. □



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GOLD SEASON

2 Bed Oceanfront \$14,000
2 Bed Oceanside \$12,000
2 Bed Ocean view \$8,000
2 Bed Garden view \$6,000
3 Bed Ocean view \$13,000

Marriott Aruba Ocean Club

PLATINUM SEASON

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2 Bed Ocean view \$19,750
1 Bed ocean front \$16,500
1 Bed ocean View \$12,000

GOLD SEASON

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Gaby Lopez birdies final 3 holes for 63 to win Dana Open

SYLVANIA, Ohio (AP) — Gaby Lopez rallied from four shots behind Sunday and closed with three straight birdies for a 8-under 63 and a one-shot victory in the Dana Open.

Lopez finished her big run with a 12-foot birdie putt on the par-5 18th at Highland Meadow, setting off a series of fist pumps, knowing it would keep her one shot ahead of Megan Khang.

All that was left for the 28-year-old Mexican was to see if anyone could catch her.

No one came particularly close, and Lopez had her third career LPGA Tour victory, and her first since the Tournament of Champions to start the 2020 season.

"I knew I had to make it because Megan was going to make hers," Lopez said.

"I practice exactly for this moment. We got the job done."

Khang, who shot 29 on the front on a rain-softened course, closed with a 64.

Lucy Li, the 19-year-old Californian who started the final round with a one-shot lead, struggled to make birdies. Her hopes effectively ended when she hit into a fairway bunker on the 16th hole, played well short of the green and missed



Gaby Lopez, of Mexico, celebrates her birdie putt on the 18th green during the final round of the Dana Classic LPGA golf tournament, Sunday, Sept. 4, 2022, at Highland Meadows Golf Club in Sylvania, Ohio.

Associated Press

a 5-foot par putt. Li birdied the 18th hole for a 70 and tied for fourth. She already has her LPGA Tour card for next season through the Epson Tour. Li tied for ninth in Canada last week to get into the Dana Open, and now she is eligible to play the LPGA event in Cincinnati next week.

"Yesterday I was a little nervous on the first couple of holes. Today didn't really feel nervous at all, so

that was definitely good," Li said. "There is lots of lessons to be learned, but today I hit it good and I just couldn't get a lot of the putts to fall honestly."

The start of the final round had a feel of a battle of prodigies — Lexi Thompson qualified for the U.S. Women's Open in 2007 when she was 12, and then Li broke her record in 2014 by qualifying at 11.

They were in the final

group, along with Caroline Masson of Germany. In the end, none was really a factor.

Thompson has gone more than three years without winning and she didn't make a birdie until the final hole. She closed with a 73 and tied for 16th, seven shots behind.

Li had one birdie and 14 pars as Lopez and Khang took over at Highland Meadow.

Masson was one shot behind Li at the start and was quickly forgotten when she opened with a double bogey and followed that with a bogey to fall four behind. In the end, Masson was the last one with a chance, though she would have needed an eagle-eagle finish on the two closing par 5s.

She birdied them both for a 68 to finish alone in third.

For Lopez, it was a matter of not trying to think too much about every shot, every result, and put her in a comfortable frame of mind on a wild day in which she had 10 players ahead of her at the start.

"This is going to sound crazy, but today felt more like a Friday round," Lopez said.

"Having that quiet is what we're working on, and it has paid off."

She was two shots behind and missed 6-foot birdie chances on the ninth and 11th and never lost focus on what she was trying to do.

"Doubts come into your mind," Lopez said. "But my caddie said, 'We just keep doing what we're doing. It's definitely working, and we're going to commit to that last hole and see what happens.' □



Chicago Sky forward Candace Parker, center, drives between Connecticut Sun guard Natisha Hiedeman, left, and Jonquel Jones, right, during Game 3 of a WNBA basketball semifinal playoff series, Sunday, Sept. 4, 2022, in Uncasville, Conn.

Associated Press

By DOUG FEINBERG
AP Basketball Writer
UNCASVILLE, Conn. (AP) — With the game in the balance, Candace Parker and the Chicago Sky turned up their defense and came away with a gritty win to move within one victory of

returning to the WNBA Finals for a second straight year.

Parker had 16 points and 11 rebounds, Kahleah Copper added 15 points and the Sky beat the Connecticut Sun 76-72 Sunday in Game 3 of the WNBA playoff semi-

Parker helps Sky beat Sun 76-72, take 2-1 series lead

finals. The Sky lead the best-of-five series 2-1. "Down the stretch we were able to play (to our strengths)," said Parker, who tied Tamika Catchings for most double-doubles in the playoffs with 27. "I think the biggest thing is sometimes in years past, we would play great defense and give up the offensive board. Tonight we were able to finish the play." Copper's 3-pointer with 6:14 left gave Chicago a 66-64 lead. Then offense was hard to come by: Neither team scored for nearly 4 minutes until Emma Meesseman hit a jumper in the corner to extend the lead to four with 2:26 left.

Connecticut missed eight shots in a row over that

scoreless span until Courtney Williams hit a jumper 40 seconds later.

"It was 66-64 forever," Connecticut coach Curt Miller said. "I wondered if one team would have an offensive run. It was to the point where if a team could put back to back baskets together, they would have all sorts of momentum. ... We just couldn't put together that offensive run when we needed it."

Chicago scored the next four points with two free throws by Copper and a layup by Meesseman that made it 72-66 with under a minute left. Connecticut got back within two with 22 seconds left on two free throws by Bonner, but Park-

er made two free throws 7 seconds later.

Bonner then missed a 3 and Connecticut was done. She finished with 18 points to lead the Sun, who had 17 turnovers.

"We have to play on what we build on throughout the season," Chicago coach James Wade said. "Playing together throughout adversity, we did a good job of it. We didn't have many lulls. we were up for the challenge and came out victorious."

Connecticut led 23-21 after one quarter when Bonner banked in a 3-pointer from about 30 feet just before the buzzer. Connecticut was 8 for 9 from the foul line in the period. □

Analysis: Will a bigger College Football Playoff be better?

By RALPH D. RUSSO

AP College Football Writer

While enthusiastically announcing plans to expand the College Football Playoff, those in charge of the postseason system downplayed the revenue windfall that will come with tripling the number of participants and declined to speculate about whether a new format will tap the breaks on conference realignment.

Instead, they stuck to a strict script, touting how many more athletes will get to play games with national championship implications and how many more fans will get to root for playoff contenders.

"It will be a new day for college football," Mississippi State President Mark Keenum said late last week after the announcement billed as "historic."

No doubt.

Expanding the College Football Playoff from four to 12 teams will fundamentally change the sport on the field and off — for better or worse.

More regular-season games will have playoff implications, but the biggest games will no longer have winner-take-all tension.

The new format will break up a conference caste system fortified by the four-team model, but it won't stop the growing gap between haves and have-nots. More teams will play in the championship tournament and bowl games that are suffering from player apathy will be replaced by playoff games. But a larger field probably won't increase the number of teams that have a realistic chance of winning the whole thing.

How soon expansion will come is still to be determined. As soon as 2024, but no later than 2026.

"Overall, it's a day for celebration," CFP Executive Director Bill Hancock said. Maybe.

The Game of the Century, that in-season matchup of highly ranked teams with seemingly everything on the line, has gone from being a staple of college

football to an endangered species. The 12-team playoff will now make it extinct and redefine what it means to play an important regular-season game.

Let's use last year's Ohio State-Michigan game as an example. The Wolverines not only broke a long losing streak in the rivalry, but they eliminated the Buckeyes from both Big Ten and playoff contention.

Under a 12-team playoff, that game is for seeding and a first-round bye.

Think back to last Thanksgiving Day weekend, with Ohio State-Michigan and Oklahoma-Oklahoma State basically playing elimination games and Alabama facing Auburn with playoff hopes in peril. That was pretty great.

Now what if Wisconsin-Minnesota, Michigan State-Penn State, Oregon-Oregon State and three different Atlantic Coast Conference games involving Clemson, Wake Forest and North Carolina State also had playoff implications?

For some fans, that sounds even better. For others, those teams are just watering down the field.

"What motivated the presidents and me as well was that we need to have an opportunity for more participation of teams in our nation's national championship tournament," Keenum said. "And having only four teams, we felt like that's not fair to our student-athletes from a participation standpoint."



The College Football Playoff logo is shown on the field at AT&T Stadium before the Rose Bowl NCAA college football game between Notre Dame and Alabama in Arlington, Texas, Jan. 1, 2021.

Associated Press

Yes, it's all about the student-athletes, who now will likely need to play 16 games — maybe even 17 — to win a national championship.

Combine that with what

could very well be a \$2 billion yearly payout to the major conferences for the media rights to the new playoff, and it is yet another step toward players being paid. □

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Palm Beach – When you think of a restaurant that pleases the needs of a whole family or a large group of people with all different tastes? Think Water's Edge Restaurant. Located at the shore of Aruba's most wonderful beach, The Eagle Beach Aruba. Water's Edge Restaurant is guaranteed to serve you a fantastic magical night to remember. Whether you prefer to enjoy the view from indoors air conditioned comfort, outdoors in the soft tropical breeze or under a palapa with your toes in the sand. This spectacular restaurant offers the best ocean view sunset or sky full of stars dinner while the crispy Caribbean night wind caresses your face and plays with your hair.

From the minute you arrive there will be a great staff welcoming you with the most contagious smiles and warmth. The intense menu with a great variety of appetizers, main courses and delicious desserts will not disappoint. Seafood, Steaks and international favorites. All on one menu specially made just for you.

Culinary Voyage

Start your gastronomic journey with a scrumptious appetizer such as the Maryland Crab Cakes, maybe the Crispy Calamari or the mouthwatering creamy Garlic Tarragon Shrimp.

You can also opt for a classic French Onion Soup, a Lobster Bisque or the famously Water's Edge House Wedge, a crisp wedge of fresh romaine lettuce topped with homemade blue cheese dressing, diced tomatoes, chopped bacon, caramelized pecans and blue cheese crumbles, drizzled with balsamic reduction. This followed by the Chef's special of seafood such as Fresh salmon filet seasoned and grilled, topped with lemon cilantro butter and served with homemade mashed potatoes and fresh asparagus, a nice plate of Ahi Tuna or a succulent pasta dish like the Florentina Fettuccine Alfredo. Meat Lovers will have their fix with choices of a devourable 22oz. Bone-In "Tomahawk" Rib-Eye, pan seared in garlic infused oil and finished in the oven or our juicy N.Y Strip Loin, seasoned & grilled. All our steaks options are seasoned with a blend of kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper. Served with homemade mashed potatoes, seasoned vegetables and a choice of red wine reduction, green peppercorn demi glace, mushroom sauce, or bacon blue cheese butter. For extra sides the options are delectable. Fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, mashed or baked potatoes, fries or rice and beans. Combine your personal choice with one of the most exclusive wine from the

great selection of international wines to compliment your dish. Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled kids menu and there are also optional dishes for all vegans, vegetarians and gluten-free guests. To end the culinary voyage with some luscious sweetness, the desserts are wild. From a piece of coconut flan, NY cheese cake, carrot cake, chocolate brownie or our classic Tiramisu with kahlua and amaretto served with chocolate sauce and coffee jelly. Not to mention the fresh and light piece of key lime pie.

Creating memories

If you are planning a birthday dinner, here you will receive a nice bottle of champagne to take home with you to extend your experience even further whether on the beach or your own private balcony.

Live entertainment

Just about every day of the week, there is a different live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. Whether you're in a romantic mood, or more in a swinging mood, there is absolutely a night especially for you where you can combine great music with delicious cocktails mixed with concoctions. In addition, Water's Edge offers three daily Happy Hours from 12pm-1pm, 4pm-6pm and again from 9pm-10pm with all premium brands specially priced.

Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner

Whether you join us for breakfast, lunch or dinner, Water's Edge Restaurant & Bar offers a relaxed and inspirational dining experience overlooking the beautiful Eagle Beach with spectacular ocean views. Gather with friends and family for drinks and appetizers or a night of pampering and relaxation.



Thank you to all our guests

From the bottom of our hearts, we would like to Thank all of our guests who showed us so much love and support all through 2021, and hopefully will continue to do so in 2022. What we are most grateful for is that we could get back to doing what we love, which is looking after our guests. So, thank you for every dinner, lunch, breakfast, very to-go order, every glass of wine, every birthday, anniversary and date-night that you spent with us this last year. To our new guests, Welcome! We hope you to see you back soon! □

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For more information about the menus, entertainment and hours, please visit the website watersedge-aruba.com

